

FORD OFFERS AID TO DR. COPELAND IN TYPHUS FIGHT

Asks What Interests Are
Hindering Check to Na-
tional Menace.

TWO REMEDIES SEEN

Improve Quarantine Con-
ditions or Bar Immigration,
Commissioner Says.

ELLIS ISLAND DEFENDED

Surgeon-General Puts Respon-
sibility Squarely on Quar-
antine Officials.

Henry Ford, through his newspaper, the *Dearborn Independent*, telegraphed Health Commissioner Copeland yesterday to let him know "what interests" are hindering his fight to keep typhus out of the United States and what he wants done.

"Will you please wire us a statement at any length on the situation resulting from unrestricted immigration," the message stated. "What threatens for the future? What steps should be taken? The gravity of the situation in our opinion demands outspoken declaration of causes."

Commissioner Copeland replied to the effect that one of two things must be done at once: either an embargo placed on immigration or quarantine conditions immediately improved.

Every Immigrant a Menace.

"Having come from Europe so recently," Dr. Copeland said, "and having observed at first hand the sufferings of the peoples there, I cannot bring myself to the conviction that an absolute embargo should be placed on immigration. Except as a last resort it is not my desire to deny European peasants the right of asylum here."

"Nevertheless, so long as quarantine conditions in these Eastern ports continue as inefficient as at present it must be admitted that every immigrant coming from an infected port is a menace to the health of our people."

"It is not enough for quarantine officers to inspect the passengers of steamships with the view of determining at that particular moment if there is any infectious disease on board. A truly effective quarantine examination would go further—it would determine whether or not there are possible carriers of infectious diseases on the ship."

"This would mean as regards typhus that every vermin infested person would be regarded with suspicion. If every person from suspected areas entering an American port is disrobed, deloused and equipped with clean clothing the danger of typhus will disappear at once."

"Ellis Island Clean."

Indignant denial of Dr. Copeland's charge that Ellis Island is unclean and immigrants become infected with vermin there was made yesterday by Byron R. Uhl, Deputy Commissioner of Immigration. Commissioner Frederick A. Wallis had not returned from Washington.

"The conditions at the immigration station on Ellis Island are satisfactory," Mr. Uhl said. "The island is absolutely clean. The report that immigrants off the Adriatic became infected here is a damnable lie, and you can quote me as saying so."

"The newspapers are inaccurate in their reports about the typhus situation, particularly as to the three cases discovered at Cortland, N. Y. Printed reports stated the cases were children who were admitted January 5. Our records show the only immigrants bound for Cortland who have passed through Ellis Island since that date were three adults."

"The inspection of immigrants arriving from Ellis Island and by train from Boston continued and 301 persons were examined. Fifty-three were held up as possible typhus carriers. One suspected typhus case was found, but physicians of the Health Department disagreed as to the diagnosis. Dr. William L. Somerset thought it was late measles. Dr. Isaac Smith of the Brooklyn district said it was typhus. The victim is Jack Lannabotto, 1 year old, who arrived February 2 from Italy. He is in Kingsdon Avenue Hospital."

Surgeon-General's Statement.

Surgeon-General Cummings issued a statement because of "the extraordinary publicity given to the typhus situation at the Port of New York and the erroneous impressions created by some of the representations." He said in part:

"The menace to this country from the introduction of typhus from Europe is not of recent development and is no greater to-day than it was six months ago. Even before the armistice, the Surgeon-General recognized the potentialities of the disease spreading to the United States if adequate precautionary measures were not taken when immigration was resumed. During the last year medical officers of the Public Health Service have been stationed at American consulates at chief European ports of embarkation to supervise measures to be applied against ships and passengers for the prevention of the spread not only of typhus but also of plague and cholera."

"While the measures enforced at the European ports have by no means been perfect their value is indicated in the fact that several hundred thousand immigrants have come from typhus infected areas on several hundred ships, and that out of all this number typhus infection occurred only on eight vessels. With the exception of the President Wilson, which arrived at New York on February 1, infection on the ships was detected by the quarantine officer at New York and effective precautionary measures applied."

"The system of quarantine protection developed by the Public Health Service consists of a double line of defense, first the medical officers at foreign ports who supervise preventive measures specified in the United States quarantine regulations, and, second, the facilities at United States quarantine stations. If infection evades the first barrier, the

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"Much confusion has resulted from

the statements in newspaper interviews in New York city as to responsibility of the immigration service at Ellis Island for the exclusion of typhus fever. Immigration officials are not vested with any authority administering quarantine laws. Furthermore, they have no equipment for enforcing quarantine measures—naturally so, because they have control over aliens and not over citizens of the United States, although the latter returning from Europe are just as serious a menace from the typhus standpoint as is an alien.

"It is true that Ellis Island has always proved a valuable line of second defense for the port, but the responsibility for the exclusion of typhus and other quarantinable diseases rests solely upon the quarantine authorities. As a matter of ordinary decency and personal hygiene delousing facilities should be provided at Ellis Island, but, since the prevention of the introduction of typhus relates to returning citizens as well as aliens, the quarantine station is the one place where effective preventive measures can be carried out."

Commissioner Wallis wired from Washington that he had concluded his conference with the Department of Labor officials and that they advise that the question of typhus and vermin rest entirely with quarantine, and once quarantine passes immigrants they must be landed. He also stated the Federal Government is about to take over the quarantine station here and spend \$200,000 on baths and other accommodations. "My own personal judgment, as many times expressed," Mr. Wallis concludes, "is that no alien should ever be allowed to land until stripped of all clothing, examined from head to foot and put through a strong disinfectant bath."

\$200,000 IS ASKED FOR FIGHT AGAINST TYPHUS

Needed for Water Supply at
Immigration Barracks.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 19.

An additional appropriation of \$200,000 to provide greater facilities at New York for checking typhus among immigrants was asked of Congress today by the Secretary of the Treasury.

The money will be used to provide adequate water supply for the detention station at Hoffman Island, additional disinfecting facilities and increased barracks for the typhus patients. Because of the situation at New York it is probable the request will be included in one of the deficiency bills.

In asking the appropriation, Secretary Houston submitted a statement of Surgeon-General Cummings of the Public Health Service which said: "The New York quarantine station has reasonably satisfactory equipment for routine operation, but is sadly lacking in facilities to meet the present emergency caused by the spread of typhus in Europe and the attendant danger of its introduction into the United States. The vast bulk of transatlantic travel in respect to immigration enters through the port of New York, and it is most important that the sanitary safeguards at that port be strengthened if the infection is to be excluded and at the same time commerce not be unnecessarily obstructed."

"It is contemplated to expend the amount requested in preparing adequate water supply for the detention station at Hoffman Island, additional disinfecting facilities and increased barracks accommodation for detention of those who have been exposed to typhus fever."

SIX NEW SLEEPING CASES; GIRL DIES

Henry Bruckner, Victim of
Malady, Is Removed to a
Sanitarium.

Six new cases and one death from encephalitis lethargica—sleeping sickness—were reported to the Health Department yesterday. The death was that of Sadie Musanti of 15 Roosevelt street. Totals since January 1 are 208 cases and 54 deaths.

Thomas J. Dolan, secretary to Henry Bruckner, President of the Bronx, who was stricken at a Board of Estimate meeting Friday, issued a statement confirming the fact that Mr. Bruckner's illness is encephalitis. The diagnosis was made by Drs. Robert Jacoby, William Pollen and Thomas Curtin.

Mr. Bruckner will be obliged to give up all public work for the present. He has gone to a sanitarium in New York State, Mr. Dolan said.

Health Commissioner Copeland issued instructions as to quarantine and isolation regulations.

"I would recommend," he said, "that in all cases we employ the same methods of modified isolation and quarantine which we require in cases of influenza and pneumonia, as follows: "For patients in hospitals, isolation in a separate room is not necessary. However, if kept in a ward their beds should be at a suitable distance from other beds in the ward. Discharges from such patients should be carefully disinfected and destroyed. The persons in charge of such patients should not come in contact with other persons without first washing their hands and they should avoid carrying the disease to others precisely as they would in a case of acute lobar pneumonia."

"For patients who are treated at home it is necessary that they should be separated from the rest of the family; that all discharges from the nose and throat should be disinfected and destroyed as promptly as possible; and that persons in attendance upon the sick should avoid unnecessary contact with other persons. Visitors, as well as persons who are not in immediate attendance upon the sick, should not be allowed to come in contact with the patient."

"Quarantine should continue until such time as the temperature of the affected person has returned to normal."

AUTHOR'S LEAGUE DINNER.

P. G. Cooper will give a "chalk talk" and Frank P. Adams will lead an "all author-artists' orchestra," which has been in rehearsal for several days, at a dinner of the Authors' League of America this evening in the Cafe Boulevard. Mrs. Carolyn Wells Houghton and Arthur Gutterman will assist in entertaining. Dr. A. A. Brill will contribute some serious moments by talking on "The Creative Mind."

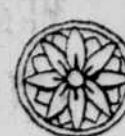
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